OSTRANDER, McDONNELL & LEWIS

SUICIDE SQUAD™

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RAVAN™ VS. BRONZE TIGER!™

...IN THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES!

SS™

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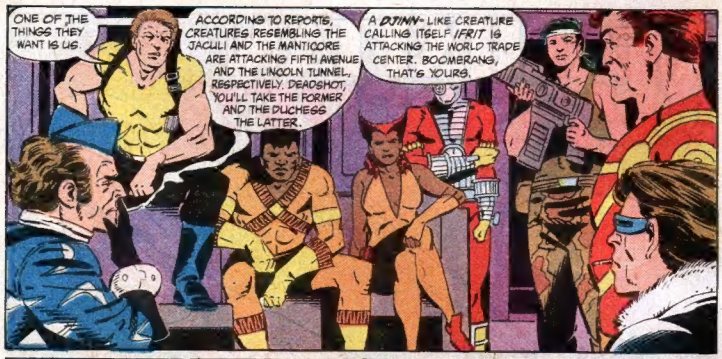

ONE OF THE THINGS THEY WANT IS US
ACCORDING TO REPORTS, CREATURES RESEMBLING THE JACULI AND THE MANTICORE ARE ATTACKING FIFTH AVENUE AND THE LINCOLN TUNNEL, RESPECTIVELY. DEADSHOT, YOU'LL TAKE THE FORMER AND THE DUCHESS THE LATTER.
A DJINN-LIKE CREATURE CALLING ITSELF IFRIT IS ATTACKING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER. BOOMERANG, THAT'S YOURS.

HOLD ON, COLONEL! IF IT IS JACULI, WHY NOT SEND ME? I DONE HIM UP THE LAST TIME!*
* SQUAD #2.-- BOB OF THE LONG MEMORY

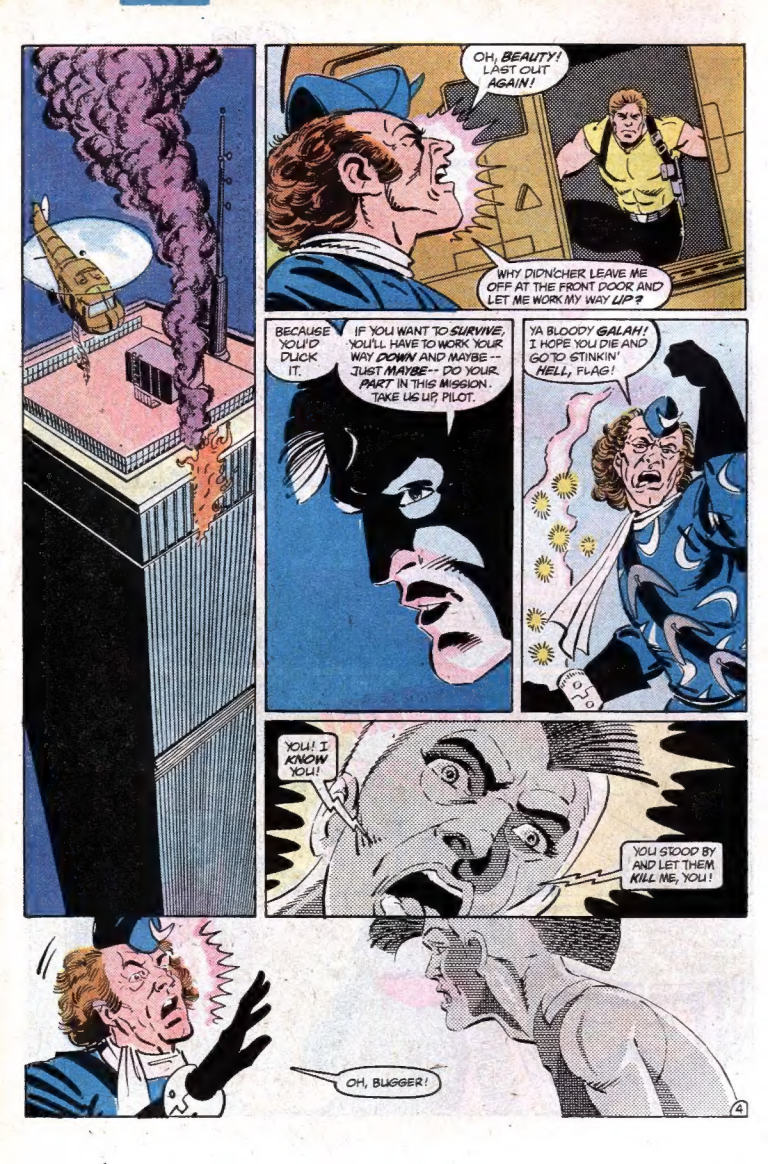
YOUR RECORD AGAINST SUPER-SPEED CHARACTERS ISN'T GREAT.
HOLD ON! YER IMPUGNIN' MY REPUTATION!
YOUR RECORD STINKS FOR ITSELF. DEADSHOT GOES.

WE'VE GOT INCIDENTS IN A SUBWAY AND AT GRAND CENTRAL STATION. CAPTAIN COLD, YOU'LL INTERCEPT THE TRAIN AT TIMES SQUARE AND DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. VIXEN, CHECK OUT GRAND CENTRAL.

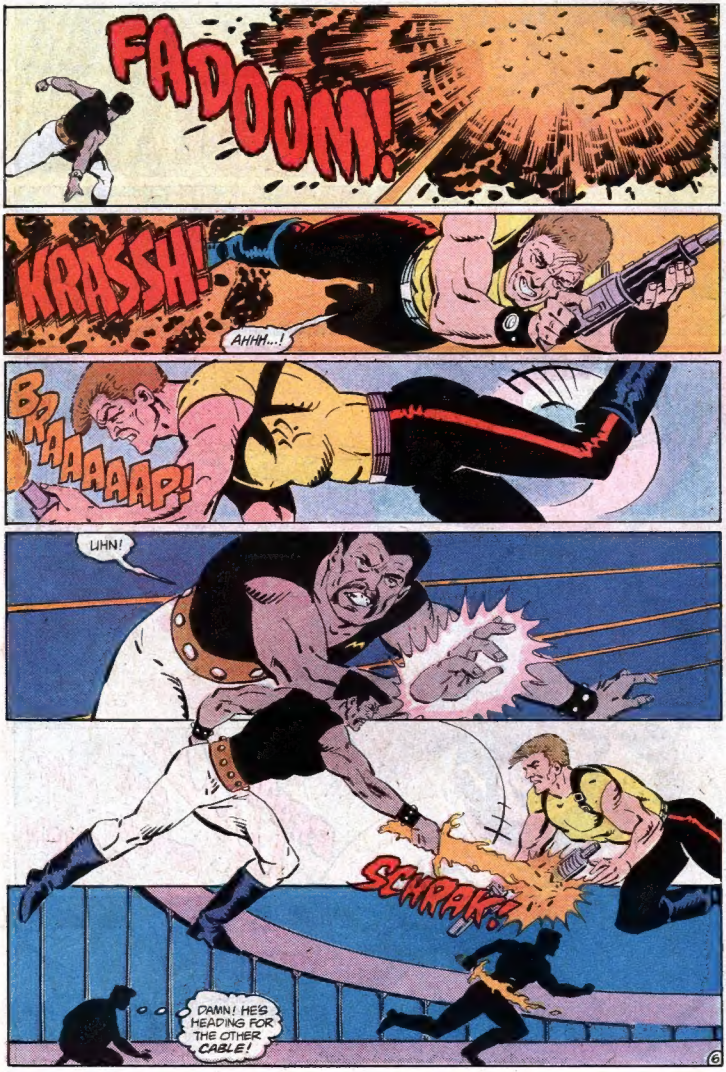
YOU THINK RAVAN IS WITH THEM?
IF HE IS, HE'LL GO FOR THE MAYOR. THAT'S HIS STYLE.

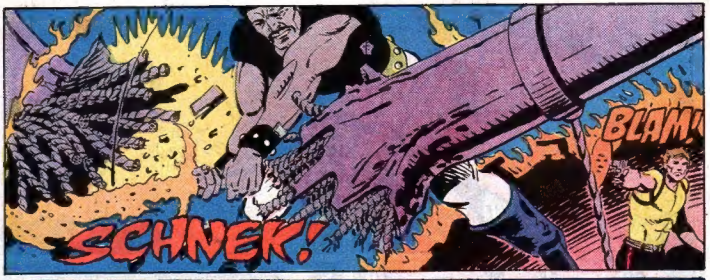
YOU GOING FOR RUSTAM, RIGHT?
IF I CAN FIND HIM.
IF I DO, THERE WON'T BE A THIRD MEETING.

OVER KENTUCKY...
WE'RE PULLING MACH 2, MISS, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW YOU PLAN TO GET TO NEW YORK IN TIME TO DO ANY GOOD.
I KNOW A SHORTCUT.
TZZEE TZZEE TZEE VOMP!
ER
TZZEE TZZEE TZEE VOOMP! WOOOSH
LADY--I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT PLACE WAS--OR HOW YOU TOOK US THERE--BUT FOR THE LOVE OF GOD DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN!
...I WON'T... EVER AGAIN...!
3


OH, BEAUTY! LAST OUT AGAIN!
WHY DIDN'CHER LEAVE ME OFF AT THE FRONT DOOR AND LET ME WORK MY WAY UP?
BECAUSE YOU'D DUCK IT.
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK YOUR WAY DOWN AND MAYBE -- JUST MAYBE -- DO YOUR PART IN THIS MISSION. TAKE US UP, PILOT.
YA BLOODY GALAH! I HOPE YOU DIE AND GO TO STINKIN' HELL, FLAG!
YOU! I KNOW YOU!
YOU STOOD BY AND LET THEM KILL ME, YOU!
OH, BUGGER!

WHERE TO NEXT, SIR?
GOOD QUESTION. WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE RUSTAM'S TURNING UP.
WAIT. GIVE ME THE NIGHT GLASSES.
GET ME DOWN TO THE BRIDGE-- FAST!
SNAP!
BRAAAAP
PAM PING
BRINNING
SPAKOW!
BRAAAP!
HOLD 'ER STEADY, DAMMIT!

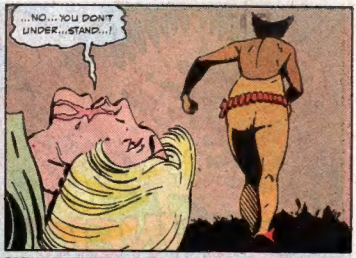

FA DOOM!
KRASSH!
AHHH...!
BRAAAAAP!
UHN!
SCHRAK!
DAMN! HE'S HEADING FOR THE OTHER CABLE!

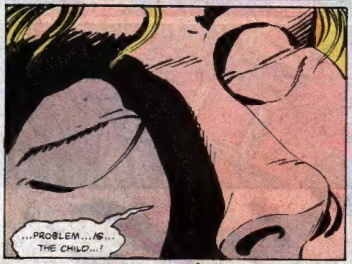

SCHNEK!
BLAM!

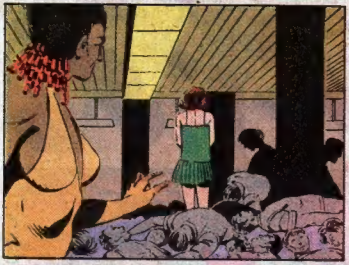
ERNNK!

ELSEWHERE ...
TANTU! ALL THESE DEAD!
CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE ON SOME, I THINK--HEART BURST ON OTHERS? AND STILL OTHERS BEATEN TO DEATH? WHAT AM I FACING HERE?
UHNN...!

...THE CHILD... YOU MUST... THE CHILD...!
STAY STILL. DO NOT WORRY. I'LL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO SAVE YOUR CHILD.


...NO... YOU DON'T UNDER...STAND...!


...PROBLEM...IS... THE CHILD...!



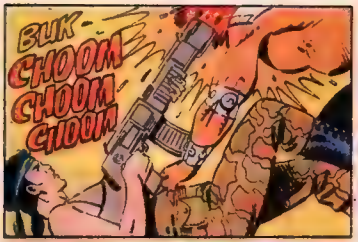
SHHHH, LITTLE ONE! DON'T BE AFRAID! I'M A FRIEND COME TO HELP YOU!

HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!

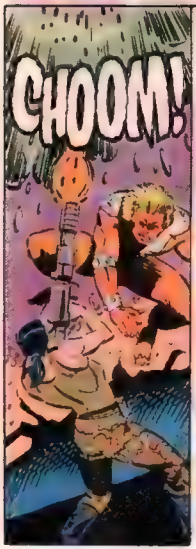
ELSEWHERE...
BDOW!
BAM!
ORDINARY HUMANS, SEEMINGLY MIND-CONTROLLED.
WE'LL LET THEIR MINDS ACTIVATE THE VEST'S DISTORTION EFFECT--SEE IF THAT SCATTERS THEM--OR WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING THEM.
I'M NOT GETTING ANY RESPONSE OUT OF THEM!
NO WONDER! THEY'RE DEAD!
THE VEST IS JUST PICKING UP MY MENTAL STATE!
THESE CREATURES ARE SWARMING ME UNDER!
WEL-COME TO THE AR-MY OF KOSHCHEI THE DEATH-LESS!

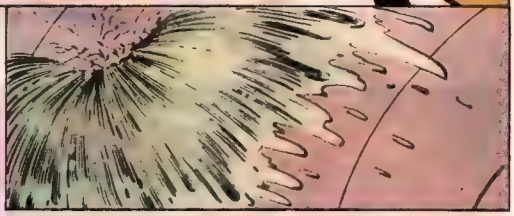
ELSEWHERE
GROWWWLL
SNARRL!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
YAAA-HAAAAA!
BUDDA
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
HAWROOO!
WHAM!
KLOP!
SNAPPPPP!
BAM
10

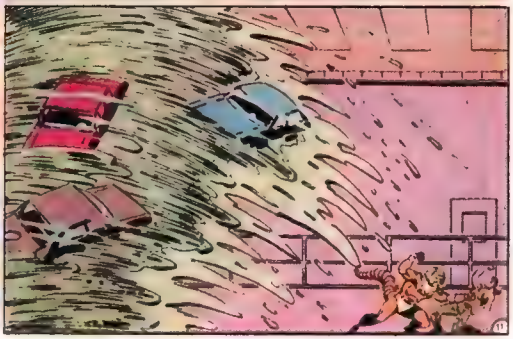

BLIK
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM

SNARRRL!

SO, YOUR MASTERS FIXED THAT DESIGN FLAW, EH? WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SWITCH TO HIGH EXPLOSIVE!
KA-TCHATCH!


CHOOM!

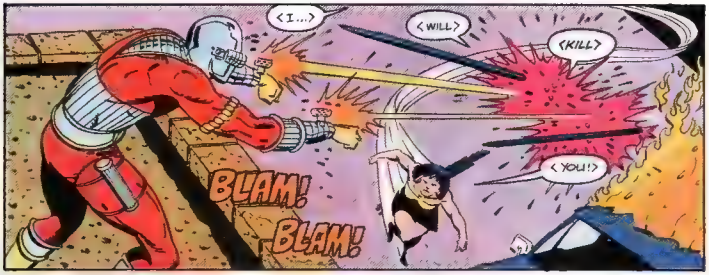




GRACIE MANSION
HOME OF THE MAYOR
OF NEW YORK
NO
TRESPASSING
SMASH!

THIS TIME I BREAK YOUR BACK.
AND HOW IS IT YOU ARE WALKING, RAVAN ?
EXOSKELETON, I WOULD THINK. POWER SOURCE MUST BE CARRIED ON YOUR PERSON.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIND IT
PERHAPS... HERE ?
NO!
DAMN YOU TO TEN THOUSAND HELLS !
REFRAIN FROM DAMNING ME WHILE I WILL TELL YOU HOW YOU MAY SERVE KALI BETTER WITH ANOTHER GROUP.

ELSEWHERE...
BADOOM
SAME AS THE ORIGINAL. BURST OF SUPER-SPEED UP TO THREE SECONDS, STOP, THROW, ANOTHER BURST OF SUPER-SPEED.
WAIT'LL SHE STOPS. BANG EASY SHOT FROM UP HERE
HEY BIMBETTE. OVER HERE.
I'D LIKE A DATE
WHAT RE YOUR RATES?
<AMERICAN PIG!>
14

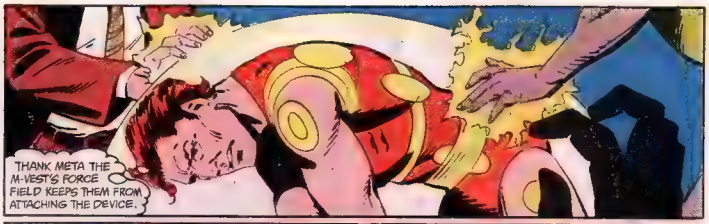

<I...>
<WILL>
<KILL>
<YOU!>
BLAM!
BLAM!

NOT GOOD ENOUGH SORRY.
BLAM!

KILL ME...AMERICAN... OR I WILL COME BACK FOR YOU!
I BELIEVE YOU
BLAM!

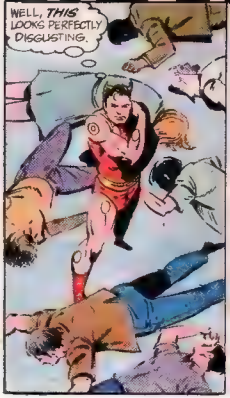
ELSEWHERE .
DAMN FLAG AND DAMN THIS BRACELET AND DAMN THIS WHOLE STINKIN' DEAL!
MAYBE I CAN FIND WHOEVER THIS BOZO IS I'M SUPPOSED T' OFF AND MAKE A DEAL WITH HIM OR...
UPTO
...SOMETHIN'!
UH... HI, GUY
LISTEN, YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? HOWJA LIKE TO MAKE A DEAL?
YES
NO
YAAAAH! NO! NO! NO!
16

HAHAHAHA!
YOU WANT A FIGHT WITH ME, SCHMUCK? YOU GOT IT!
ZZZAP!
FROM TRACKS
WHAM!
AGH!
SNAP
WANTA PLAY ROUGH, PALLY? OKAY! BUT I GOTTA TELL YA SOMETHIN'!
HATE IS COLD! HELL IS COLD!
AND, SUCKER... I AM CAPTAIN COLD!


THANK META THE M-VEST'S FORCE FIELD KEEPS THEM FROM ATTACHING THE DEVICE.

I WONDER. HOW MUCH ENERGY CAN I FEED IT BEFORE IT CREATES A *FEEDBACK*?

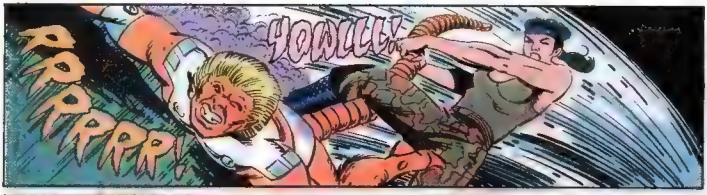
FASHHH!

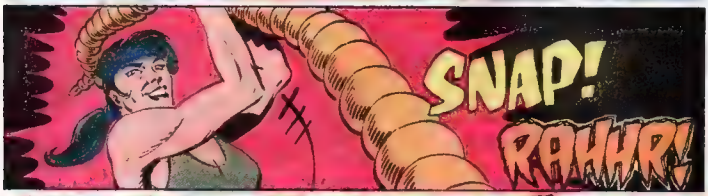

WELL, *THIS* LOOKS PERFECTLY DISGUSTING.

THOSE TRANSMITTERS LOOK STRICTLY SHORT-RANGE. WHATEVER *MIND* WAS CONTROLLING THESE THINGS MUST BE NEARBY.

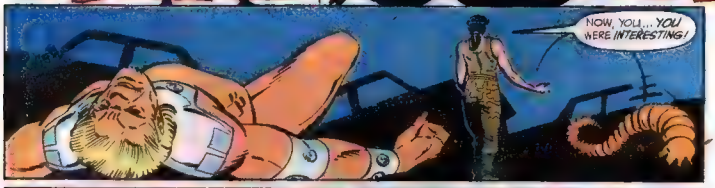
WAS *IT* SHORTED OUT ALONG WITH THESE ZOMBIES? OR DOES *KOSHCHEI THE DEATHLESS* STILL *LIVE*?

ELSEWHERE...
FOOSH!
CRRRRR
RAHRRR!!
WHOM!
WHOM!
YRRRRR!

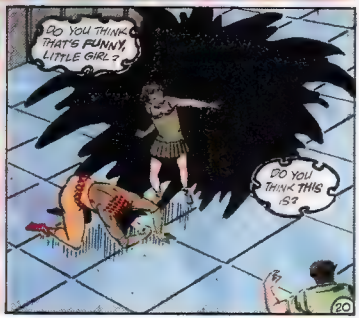

RRRRRR!
HOWLLL!


SNAP!
RAHHR!

WHAK
WHAK
RAK


NOW, YOU... YOU WERE INTERESTING!

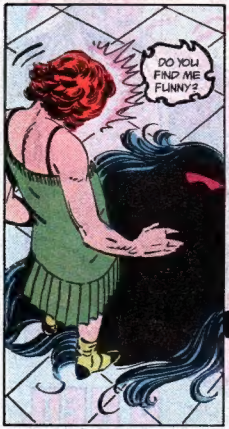
ELSEWHERE...
HA HA HA HA HA


DO YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY, LITTLE GIRL?
DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

THIS IS DARKNESS, LITTLE GIRL -- AS COLD AS THE GRAVE. A COLDNESS TO BURY YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU LAUGH?

GO AWAY!

WHU'RRE YEW? WHERE ARE YEW?
HERE.


DO YOU FIND ME FUNNY?

KRAK!

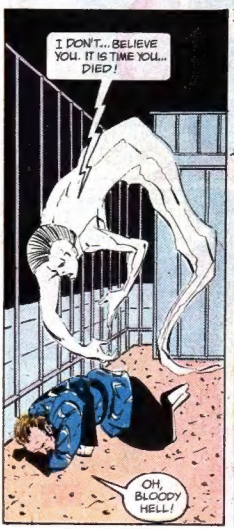
NIGHTSHADE?
YEG.
WHAT IS THAT CHILD?

I FEAR SHE IS THE FUTURE.

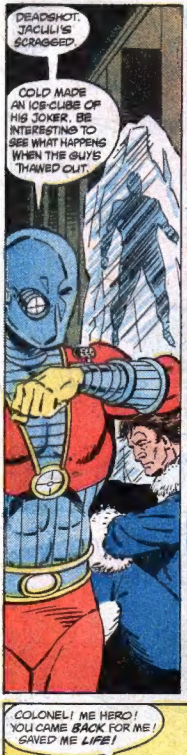
ELSEWHERE...
LOOK, Y'GOTTA REMEMBER! BACK WHEN YOU WAS MINDBOGGLER, WE WERE MATES!
WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

YES. YOU ARE LYING..THEY SHOWED ME... TAPES... SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...HOW YOU COULD HAVE SAVED ME... BUT LET ME DIE!

LIES! THEY EDITED ME IN! SWEAR IT ON ME FATHER'S GRAVE!


I DON'T... BELIEVE YOU. IT IS TIME YOU... DIED!
OH, BLOODY HELL!

FLAG HERE. RUSTAM AND IFRIT SECURED.
REPORT.


DEADSHOT. JACKLI'S SCRAGGED.
COLD MADE AN ICE-CUBE OF HIS JOKER. BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GUY'S THAWED OUT.

DUCHESS KILLED THE MANTICORE. VIXEN AND I HAVE A PRISONER.

SO DO I. AND HE MAY BE A NEW RECRUIT.

I...WELL, IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN BUT MY PART OF THE EMERGENCY IS OVER AS WELL.
GOOD. EVERYONE BACK TO THE MARINE BASE. NIGHTSHADE, YOU MIGHT EXPLAIN THEN WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE DOING UP HERE. FLAG OUT.

COLONEL! ME HERO! YOU CAME BACK FOR ME! SAVED ME LIFE!
I CAME BACK TO GET IFRIT.

LOST RUSTAM IN THE RIVER. GOT HIS COAT, THO, AND FOUND THE DEVICE. IFRIT MIGHT BE USEFUL, IF WE CAN RE-PROGRAM HER.
YOU, BOOMERANG? YOU'RE JUST A DEAD LOGS.
FIN.

SUICIDE NOTES

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Dear Suicidal Maniacs,

"Slipping into Darkness" was a real treat to read. John Ostrander's story was excellent (what else is new?). I especially liked seeing Amanda Waller get dumped, for once. Also, I've been waiting for Nightshade's revised origin for more than a year, so you guys better not botch it up.

When SUICIDE SQUAD first came out, you promised us a more rotating lineup. Instead, however, you have given us virtually the same team every issue! What's the deal? In fourteen issues, one member, Mindboggler, has died and one, Plastique, has been kicked out; other than that, six of the original members have appeared in virtually every issue and four more members, Black Orchid, Nemesis, Vixen and the Duchess, have been added, giving us a total of ten regular Squad members. What happened to the smaller rotating team? And when I say rotating, I don't mean one-time bit parts by Speedy or the Penguin, either. Come on, guys, there's a myriad of overlooked heroes and locked-up villains at your disposal. Don't get us too attached to this group. I, for one, would like to ... no, demand ... to see the Creeper, Sarge Steel and Brother Power make appearances in SUICIDE SQUAD.

I have noticed that when the Squad appears outside their regular title, e.g. FIRESTORM and DOOM PATROL/SUICIDE SQUAD SPECIAL #1, it is usually composed of several old, sometimes forgotten villains. These villains usually die and are never seen again. If these appearances are just to clean up the DC Universe, why don't you put a few of them in the main SQUAD title to spice up the roster and provide us with the reality of death? Aside from Mindboggler's death, your motto, thus far, appears to be "immortal, but expendable."

I liked your Batman and JLI crossovers into SUICIDE SQUAD, and I think I can safely say that most readers did also. I think that a crossover with SUPERMAN, CHECKMATE! or Major Force would be a good idea. I especially think that Deadman would cross over well with the team.

On a final note, let me say that SQUAD #14 was the first and only issue to date in which I have enjoyed the art. I don't know if it has just taken me a while to become acclimated to Luke McDonnell's art or if it just started getting good. The art at the beginning and then at the end were particularly fine, roughly hewn and sometimes harsh, yet artistically balanced and sound. Jerry Bingham's cover was the icing on the cake.

Raja Kittappa
8887 Pine Oak Circle
Mountville, PA 17554

Actually, Raja, if you examine the lineup issue to issue, you will note that people like Nightshade missed issues #8-10, Black Orchid appears rarely, Nemesis was out of issues #8-12 and Flag himself just missed a few issues. We don't have every member in every issue because we want to give the team a more fluid existence. Yes, we do spice up issues with guest villains or heroes but that is how we have evolved from the initial concept. But don't worry, we have a major team shakeup in the works for the end of the year. Also, we took Slipknot from FIRESTORM #64 and used him in issue #9 and even blew his arm off. So we are certainly trying to live up to our promises.

*****

Dear Robert, John, Luke and Company,

I guess it's a good thing that *I'm* not running the Suicide Squad!

Because if I were in charge instead of Amanda Waller and a couple of political weasels like Cray and Tolliver tried to blackmail *me* in the Oval Office right in front of the President of the United States (and I would think that even a lame duck President would have enough political clout to make two mouthy schemers *extremely* sorry for threatening to reveal the existence of a top secret government project ... but that's a whole different subject), I know that I wouldn't take it as well as Amanda did.

In fact, if I had a whole army of super-criminals at my disposal, I'd have them use their unique abilities to dig up every bit of incriminating evidence about Tolliver and Cray that they could lay their hot little hands on! I'd get so much dirt on them, they would spend the rest of their lives in prison and then I'd promise them if they *ever* opened their mouths about Task Force X I'd use all my authority to see they were committed and sent to Belle Reve where they'd be cellmates with some of the more psychotic super-criminals.

I'd play hardball with them, just like Amanda played hardball with The Batman.

What I'd *never ever* do is send key Squad members (including one guy who drank himself comatose) into the land of the unknown to meet heaven knows what horrible fate at a time when some sleazeball politicians were trying to shut down the Squad. I'd try and keep the Squad at full fighting strength until I could ensure the continuation of the Task Force X program.

I guess what I'm trying to say here is that since Amanda seems to be on the verge of losing her ability to command the Squad, she is going to be replaced pretty soon if she doesn't get her act together. If she *is* replaced, I just want you to know that *I'm* available for the job.

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, KS

*****

Dear Bob,

SUICIDE SQUAD #14 was a very exciting issue. It had two things that interested me: 1) the further development of Amanda Waller and 2) the beginning of the Nightshade saga.

The scenes with Boomerang were very comical. I like that. This book needs more humor. John, you know you can supply that.

Luke McDonnell's art was great. I especially liked the scenes with Ben and Amanda and in Nightshade's land.

Eric Buscher
11515 Mountain Laurel Drive
Roswell, GA 30075

*****

Dear Bob and Company,

If the second half of the Nightshade Odyssey features the ultimate solution to June Moone's problem, why do I have the feeling that she won't survive the adventure? In some ways, this is the only solution to June's dilemma. The Enchantress part of her personality, at least, must cease to exist. Alternatively, I fear Nightshade may die next issue, which would be sad as she's recently had more of a role to play in the DC Universe—there again, this may have been a deliberate leadup to such a resolution. Whatever the outcome, the Suicide Squad may be about to live up to its name again.

The one bit in this issue I didn't like was the scene in Reagan's office, which didn't quite hold true. I don't